

infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro business, create employment in rural areas, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers, discourage migration to urban areas and face the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalisation. The Government has already taken several fiscal, financial, programmatic and administrative measures for welfare of farmers and development of agriculture.

Support price of wheat

3820. SHRI C.R.A. MACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to increase the support price of wheat in this season because the prices of inputs have gone up;
- (b) if so, the extent to which prices would be increased;
- (c) the reasons for delay in announcement of support price; and
- (d) by when an announcement in this regard is expected to be made⁹

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The Government has already announced the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat for the 2000-01 season to be marketed in 2001-02 @ Rs. 610 per quintal, which marks an increase of Rs. 30 per quintal as compared to the MSP fixed for the last season.